



# Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum

Submission to the Select Committee

Department of Public Enterprises

18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**TRANSFORMATION IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR, THE PLIGHT OF  
EX SAFCOL WORKERS AND SECURITY OF TENURE**

Presented By: Ms Mary-Anne Mngomezulu

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- Honorable Chairperson, thank you very much for the opportunity to present. We have no words to adequately express our sincerest gratitude. Thank you.
- Very little transformation happened in the forestry sector in the Western Cape and as far as the western part of the Eastern Cape. All over the country we have small and medium growers in the sector. Just not in the above mentioned areas. Conditions are harsh for them, but they are there, in other provinces, and in other parts of the eastern Cape, most notable your former homelands.
- White contractors from Mpumalanga are employed in our areas, killing job opportunities for small contractors. Our small contractors will be sitting without work in the next few months.
- I will attach my letter of 2013 for your perusal.
- I would like you to read it in conjunction with the latest BBEE assessment, which you should be able to obtain from Dr Diphoko Mohango, Chairperson of the Forestry Sector Charter Council.

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- To give you an idea... the current minimum wage stands at R3500.00. A person employed for 10 years at Cape Pines earns R4000, 00 per month. The starting wages for the Mpumalanga Contractor is R4000.00.
- Minister the Forestry Sector and the IDC did a complete study and came up with viable options for the replanting of the old exit areas in the Western Cape. Many of us were hopeful that the IDC study and plan will bring about real transformation in the Western Cape Forestry Sector, but this is not happening.
- It seems that MTO is already in charge of that process. They enjoyed a R90m contract for the replanting of harvested areas. No tender, just a letter of appointment.

# WCFSF - Introduction

- The Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum (WCFSF) is formed by the key forestry stakeholders in the Western Cape (WC) with common view to promote and support development in the forestry sector in the Western Cape Province. Furthermore, The WCFSF creates a platform to debate forestry sector development issues between government, the forest industry, investors, financial Institutions and communities with access to forest land or forest resources. This is a platform where stakeholders get together to discuss problems, share information and endeavour to find sustainable solutions to challenges facing the sector.
- Poverty, joblessness and lack of security of tenure represent a serious threat to the sustainable livelihoods of many rural forestry communities in the Western Cape Province.
- The sustainability of the forestry sector in the Province is of prime importance for economic and rural development, especially for previously disadvantaged vulnerable forestry communities, residing in forestry settlements.
- The cabinet decision to exit from 22 500a of state forestry land and the handover of some of this land, including forestry settlements, to conservation agencies, such as SANPARKS, has negatively impacted the job security and security of tenure of the communities residing in these settlements.
- The exit strategy in respect of a significant portion of state owned forestry land has been reversed, yet existing leases between the government and the private sector forestry companies have not been renewed, resulting in the imminent closure of saw mills and significant job losses in the forestry sector. Leases have not been entered into in respect of other state owned forestry land, resulting in valuable forestry land being degraded and remaining non-productive.
- The above situation has given rise to a need for a platform where all stakeholders can get together to discuss problems, share information and endeavour to find a sustainable solution to the challenges facing the industry.

# WCFSF - Purpose

The Forestry Forum shall provide leadership and serve as a platform where all stakeholders with an interest in forestry, including government, private sector industry, civil society, regional forestry sector forums and forestry communities can meet to effectively facilitate the sector's socio- economic and environmental sustainability and guarantee security of tenure and service delivery to members of Forestry Communities.

# WCFSF – Guiding Principles

- 1.** Forestry development offers real opportunities for poverty alleviation, employment and enterprise development in the forestry communities of the Western Cape, and can therefore serve as a catalyst to community development and upliftment.
- 2.** Development of the Forestry Sector, amongst others, in WC is of prime importance for economic and rural development especially for previously disadvantaged communities.
- 3.** Forestry development needs to be consistent with the provisions of the National Forests Act (84 of 1998), the BBBEE Act of 2003, the Forest Sector BBBEE Charter of 2009, Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa, National Industrial Policy Framework, National Development Plan, Modern certification principles and recognized forestry certification systems.
- 4.** All spheres of government (local, provincial and national) have a key role to play in guiding the forestry development process and to provide support to communities in undertaking forestry enterprise initiatives, and should work together in doing so.
- 5.** Communities should be empowered with skills and financial resources required to establish forestry enterprises on their own.
- 6.** Forestry development projects must be socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.
- 7.** Communities and black emerging enterprises should not only be encouraged and assisted to plant trees, but should be enabled to participate in downstream beneficiation and value-adding activities such as non-timber forest products, ecotourism and agroforestry.

# THE SOCIAL LEGACY

Forestry in South Africa is a senior industry with deep roots in Colonial and Apartheid economic land use transformation. Long before either diamonds or gold timber drew Colonial devastation to our African shores.

While Forestry today means almost exclusively Pine and Blue Gum that was not the case for much of the preceding three centuries. For its first 250 years Forestry in South Africa meant harvesting indigenous trees. The Colonial and Apartheid Timber industry of the Southern Cape cannot be viewed at all without reference to such terms as “Slaves”, “Poor Whites”, and “Colonial Devastation.”

The mass import and distribution of alien vegetation such as Oak, Wattle, Pine and Blue Gum, was first installed to supplement the dwindling timber supply from fast disappearing indigenous forests as early as 1638. The Pine Plantation industry became a major component in the rise of NNP power being massively established as a White Economic Empowerment (WEE) program in the 1930's to address the “poor white problem”. The timber industry of South Africa has been built on a 350 year history comprising the blood, sweat and tears of

Black and poor White people including my own particular ancestors for the financial benefit of a very few select beneficiaries. This reality remains the case today.

The 450-year history of European savagery in Africa comprises a particular alchemy of ignorance, greed, and the self-serving perversion of both Christian and scientific doctrine endeavoring to transform “dread into gold”.

# THE SOCIAL LEGACY... continued

Despite much rose-colored contemporary propaganda to the contrary, Colonialism had only one motive - ruthless profit: the economic empowerment of European states and some few select citizens at the expense of Africa and its peoples.

As a result there is an urgent need to identify, compile and include African scientific perspectives within those historically “euro-centric” realms of social and scientific history that still impact on multi-disciplinary Forestry and Environmental studies today.

These fallacies deeply seated within the non-African scientific community and even in the minds of many Africans themselves need to be thoroughly audited, identified and corrected. Auditing and clarifying this history remains a significant duty and challenge for African science. Support is urgently required for expanding the base of Blacks in all areas of scientific research that contribute to the Forestry sector.

Our Government who agreed to a peaceful transition in 1994, thereby creating what it saw as a secure place for investors to grow their profit margins, has had to beg for any transformation in the Forest sector millimeter by millimeter in what I believe to be a highly misguided strategy of trying “not to offend” or “scare” the Timber sector.



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## ***SAFCOL 10% COMMUNITY SHAREHOLDING***

- I will refrain from writing my views on this matter here. I do feel it's time we address and get clarity on this matter as its being used by some for their own benefit and in a very confusing manner that seeks to divide and conquer.

## **SAFCOL/MTO SHARES**

- During 1992 representatives of the old Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, (currently Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) called meetings with all their workers.
- The only point on the agenda was the semi privatisation of state forests. All the workers were told about government's intention to sell state owned forest. All workers were encouraged to move to SAFCOL with the promise of shares that will be issued to everyone who transfer to SAFCOL. Every single worker interviewed says they were told: "daar gaan n koek wees en julle elkeen gaan n stukkie daarvan kry" (translated, "There will be a cake and each one of you will receive a slice").
- During 1994 DWAF semi privatised the commercial forestry leg under the name SAFCOL. At some point during 1992 forms were filled in which was an agreement to move to SAFCOL thus qualifying for the promised shares. At a later stage forms were filled in and workers were told it was for the promised shares. No one received a copy of the signed forms.
- During 2002 SAFCOL fully privatized. Mountain to Ocean was given the land and plantations for R17 million. MTO interchanges between Cape Pine and MTO every few years. During a presentation in 2013 by MTO Chairperson, Lulamile Xate said the companies value stood at R850m. The major shareholder is the Global Environment Fund, based in the USA.
- Those workers employed by MTO as at December who didn't receive their money. They feel MTO held their monies back and even dissolved the Trust. One Minor Childs R45 000.00 was paid into the guardian fund minus the interest they are legally entitled to for the period between 2011 and 2016.

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- Two workers was already in the employ of Cape Pine, received the necessary training, was at the meetings where Lulamile Xate explained the shares and assured everyone present that they qualify. They commenced work in June 2006 and were told they will be permanently employed after they've completed their training. They duly completed their training during October 2006. They were told their paperwork is being processed. After liaising with Cape Pine since 2013 the workers were eventually told their names were omitted, and they do qualify, after signing documents and being promised their monies by mid December 2016. About Mid December 2006 they were told they do not qualify because they were on probation.
- We also have people who were assured they would be part of a new share scheme. They were employed between November 2006 December 2011. According to my understanding of the Trust deed they are supposed to be the B beneficiaries.
- Section 11.1.1.1 of trust deed reads "An A1 Beneficiary: to all employees who were employed by the Company at the **Corporatization Date** (01 November 2001) and who were still employed by the company at the commencement date (31 Oct 2006). This sound like two distinct groups. I believe these are the majority of the people who were promised shares to move to SAFCOL from DWAF and this clause was supposed to honor government's verbal contract to give shares.
- After many years trying to acquire a copy of the trust deed, we finally acquired a copy of the MTO Workers Shares Trust Deed.
- We are in no way legally qualified and do not have the means to pay for a LEGAL OPINION. But according to our limited understanding the Trust Deed covers 5 categories,
- All the ex DWAF workers who moved to SAFCOL after they entered into a verbal contract for the issuing of shares should they move to SAFCOL, and was subsequently offered early retirement and retrenchment packages.
- **NB SAFCOL was part and parcel of everything up to 2005.**

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## EXPERIENCES:

- During 2011/12 a group of Elders and ex SAFCOL workers invited the Secretary General, Ms Mngomezulu to a meeting. At this meeting some of them cried as they recalled the harsh conditions they endure in the sector under Apartheid.
- Oom Jan Booysen made her promise she will ensure his benefits will go to his grandchildren. He was originally from Steytlerville in the Eastern Cape. His circumstances at home forced him to get on the truck destined for the Craggs on the boarder of the Easter and Western Cape. He later moved to Tsitsikamma, looking for forestry labor. Oom Jan started work for DWAF during 1972. He transferred to SAFCOL. He was medically boarded in 1999 after injuring his back on duty. Medical Professionals recommended Oom Jan be Medically boarded as this was not the first injury to his back. He was still in a position to do light duties, but because he was illiterate SAFCOL forced him to retire. This was a very common practice in the forestry sector. I know only 2 medically boarded workers received payment ... they were both paralysed after trees fell on them. Oom Jan Booysen worked in the sector for 25 years. He never received any benefits apart from his meager pension he accumulated over the previous 5 years.
- Oom Archie Plaatjies started work for DWAF on November 25, 1969 at the age of 18. He also transferred to SAFCOL. He worked in the industry for 36.5 years. He retired from MTO/Cape Pine in June 2006.
- Oom Abraham Koopman worked for 33 years in the Sector. He started with DWAF in 1969. He also transferred to SAFCOL. He was supposed to retire in 2002, but MTO asked him to remain. He eventually retired in June 2004
- Many expressed their sadness, almost crying and actually crying. Some of them had 37 years service in the sector and didn't receive the shares promised to them in 1992. They also said they don't hold it against others who has been in the sector for 6 months and received shares, but it was painful. None of them benefitted from the governments pension redress scheme.
- Leader this is but 3 of the stories of those who contributed with their blood, sweat, tears and many days of humiliation to build this sector.
- MTO repeatedly told us this is a SAFCOL /DPE problem. After 4 years, MTO finally called a meeting on April 15, 2016, people from the Plettenberg Bay and Tsitsikamma was in attendance. MTO representative, Mr Herald Ponoyi promised to escalate the problem at their next meeting with SAFCOL. They promised feedback after 3 months. Needless to say after 6 months and now a year the answer was that they didn't get any info from the DPE officials.

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- SAFCOL has a history for chasing after union representatives of the forestry workers. Workers feared to voice their concerns or take action to be heard after 22 workers was fired at Lamotte for participating in protest action. These workers maintains that SAFCOL did not pay out their full pension due to them and requests that the DPE investigates their case.
- Another heart-wrenching case shared with the WCFSF Chairperson is that of Oom Andrew Kortje of Grabouw. Oom Andrew who in 1998 was viciously attacked while on duty with SAFCOL, by someone who went on to murder a lady after Mr Kortje managed to escape. (Mr Aubrey Thompson and Mr Jean Joubert currently employed by MTO, are aware of the incident). Although severely traumatised, Oom Andrew received no assistance from SAFCOL even though the regional manager for SAFCOL Mr Krieger was in the area on that day. Instead Oom Andrew was fired not long after this incident by the white forester Mr Aubrey Thompson for refusing to cut the electricity supply to the forestry workers' houses. No one ever attempted to assist Oom Andrew, yet Mr Thompson was subsequently employed by MTO with the transfer deal with SAFCOL and is still the Plantation manager for MTO in Grabouw and Tokai. Oom Andrew today resides in Dennekruin Forestry Village which was incorporated into Theewaterskloof Municipality. The community was promised ownership of the forestry houses and additional houses for the overflow of occupants in the existing houses, but instead the municipality built RDP houses and issued title deeds to the new occupants which did not include the forestry people. Forestry workers are still waiting on title deeds as is the case in most of the forestry villages in the Western Cape.
- During a meeting with DPW on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, our Chairperson was shocked to learn that the transfer of Forestry Villages to the communities can take up to 20 years. Was this a known fact when SAFCOL agreed to transfer the Forestry Villages to the Communities?

## **LEBANON COMMUNITY:**

- The ex-forestry community of Lebanon claims that SAFCOL has not attended a single trust meeting OR attended to the concerns of the ex-forestry community members since 2005. In the interim the community alleges that Paul Cluver has not delivered according to the agreement and there are instances where the community's water supply is cut for up to 3 days when there is fruit harvesting. The community now questions SAFCOL's intention with the Lebanon Fruit Trust.

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## **JONKERSHOEK COMMUNITY:**

The Jonkershoek Forestry Community Forum (JFCF) has since 1996 been involved in housing ownership and the use of land for food security. Efforts were also made to create a platform for 'Community Forestry' and then sell the forestry products for the community. The process was initiated and supported by Lill Bethlehem of DAFF, and later, because of office politics, it passed on to a person named Themba. After many promises he also disappeared and did not want to communicate with us anymore. Just after that, the community noticed that SAFCOL has taken over and their ideas and longings have been swept away from the table and blown out the door.

In 2006 new name boards appeared in the area with the name MTO on it. We had to learn from the workers that it is the new company that is in charge of the Forestry Station, and soon after, our community was threatened with evictions. But thanks to the Lord, with the help of NGOs Legal Aid and the Dept. Land Affairs the evictions was stopped. In 2013, MTO's name changed to Cape Pine (which the community thought was a new company, and in June 2013 they had to learn that Cape Pine had a 70 year lease agreement. There was NO consultation with the ex DWAF forestry workers during the process and residents in the forestry community are up in arms.

Cape Pine's name has changed back to MTO again in 2016.

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## **KRANSBOS COMMUNITY:**

The following is a brief history of events in Kransbos by Natalie Buttress:

I moved into Kransbos Village in November 1996. My partner at the time signed a lease with Safcol. 2 years later Safcol manager for Buffelsnek plantation Ryno Gehrman issued an ultimatum saying that as soon as a house became vacant it would be demolished, this threat we took seriously as they were demolishing houses 10ks up the road in another forestry village. Myself and another resident took it upon ourselves to mobilize the community and initiate talks with Public Works and Safcol to try and come to some sort of security of tenure arrangement. After several meetings with the community and various government and Safcol authorities, it was agreed that if the residents of Kransbos formed a legal body to manage the village they would be able to sub lease the village and rent it out to private residents. A group of siblings decided to take this upon themselves and formed a trust with their own money , which caused some concern and animosity among a few of the residents including myself as they completely by passed the democratic process of inclusion. The trust was also set up in a manner which gave the trustees ultimate control and say over the land and houses. Over the years the initial trustees left, some died, and moved on and the trust then acquired a new set of trustees without any consultation with the community.

I still have never signed a lease agreement with the trust and in 2012 whilst I was in CT meeting with connections and friends in government about security of tenure for our village, my electricity was cut and I was issued with a letter threatening to evict me and was reported to the government housing rental tribunal. At this stage I was not the only resident in arrears but was the only resident who's electricity was cut and reported to the tribunal. This process was spearheaded by a resident who was occupying a Kransbos house and who owned a property in Plett and was leasing it out for holiday accommodation at the time. The fact that I was the only one targeted when I was in far less arrears than other residents offended me as I was and had been for many years trying to secure tenure for our village by way of meetings with local municipality and other relevant authorities. I believe this move was executed as the resident in question was trying to get her cousin into my house. At the same time we also learned that Safcol had handed over the houses to Public Works in 2007 already and had in fact had nothing to do with the village or the houses in Kransbos.

I had had many meetings in the interim with residents, (some long term friends) about the state of the village and lack of proper management , dubious financial and social management and the complete lack of a constitutional structure governing the issues around livestock, fencing and other village infrastructure. All this whilst pleading with the board of the trust to please get their affairs in order and start with effective management and transparency , but all in vain.

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Things eventually became so bad that I stated I was not going to pay rent until the trust sorted itself out and started proper governance, management and respect for those who were still working towards security of tenure. I still have no electricity and am being billed all sorts of unnecessary costs including fixed electrical costs, rent for a school room which I don't have keys for and am not using, the rent structure is absurd and things get done with no consultation and being run like a private home owners corporation. We have residents who own property elsewhere, people with extra buildings on their property and buildings just being given to buddies to fix up and renovate and claimed as their own. If we could just agree and consult each other as a community and have respect for our differences, things could be easier, but there is no agreed upon constitution or even a code of conduct.

We were invited to various meeting in 2016 held by MTO, DAFF, WCFF and FSCC which I attended and we were told by the authorities that we needed to get our house in order and start understanding and enforcing the process of transformation , which was not received well by the residents as most of them are white, previously privileged and not underprivileged. I can say that there a quite a few residents that could easily afford to live elsewhere, as they go on overseas holidays, drive fancy cars and don't have any agricultural interest in the place at all.

Last year Jean Joubert from MTO came to speak us about the future of Kransbos , he came out there alone and offered his time , in a private capacity to assist us as a village, but so far we haven't heard anything since. Some residents are now threatening me with legal action as we still cannot come to an agreement and everything I have asked for is still not being considered , and things between neighbours and residents are getting ugly.

I am appealing to you for assistance please as this has been ongoing for years with no resolution insight.

I am an unmarried mother of 3, have been a proactive member of our village and town for many years. I have been involved in community tourism, community radio, and health and have done community food garden projects in Bitou. I don't have a stable income, I receive no grants or sponsorships or any financial assistance from any organization

And do all my own domestic and garden labour. I have an established greenhouse nursery on my property and have been growing organic fruit and veg for years.

I don't own anything of value and have never had the luxury of holidays or trips local or overseas. I would like to find out about grants or sponsorships for women in agriculture and any other available opportunities for myself and others in the same boat as I.



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Destruction of SAFCOL houses in Kransbos. But this also happened on a grand scale in other areas. I know this happened in Tsitsikamma. Today we are sitting with a social housing problem.





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## **TRANSFORMATION**

- I've written letters to officials in DPE in regarding the lack of transformation in the lease areas. Ms Keneilwe Mabena simply promised to follow up; she didn't even give us a short email response.
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- Imagine my shock when I received a call from Mr Theo Burrows, a former worker and current supplier of MTO regarding my letter and not even an acknowledgement from the officials in the DPE. To date I have yet to receive a response.
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- DPE representatives told me "off the record" they are scared to touch this can of worms as they are sure loads went wrong. We also invited Mr Matona to a meeting, he didn't respond.
- 
- One official confirmed his attendance at our AGM, during our briefing with Minister Cele, he left...
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- This year all our invitations to meetings were ignored or apologies offered or unkept promises made by SAFCOL Officials.
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- We written letters to Minister Lynne Brown with no response.
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- We have requested many meetings with DAFF, it didn't materialize until 26 January 2018. This only happened because we made a presentation to DAFF's Parliamentary Committee who subsequently came to Knysna to hear Communities. The DAFF PC's outreach took place on October 2017. We met with the former Deputy Minister of DAFF, Honorable Bheki Cele. Minister Cele instructed DAFF officials to convene a two-day workshop to address all community complaints. This process, flawed as it was, is still ongoing for which we are grateful.

## WCFSF RECOMMENDATIONS

The economic transformation policies of Government need to be embraced not defended against.

- We must stop the current situation where new Black minority owners in the sector are utilized by their majority partners as the very voices to lobby Government for maintaining the worst conditions at all the working levels of the Forestry industry.
- That National Government ensures that all its Departments drives the National Government agenda as per our Constitution and not that of the Provincial Governments in the process of transfer of state land. Communities who has occupied land for generations are left in the dark with no or very little information or consultation. Please acknowledge us as worthy citizens of our Beloved Country.

# WCFSF RECOMMENDATIONS

- We kindly request an inquiry into the MTO/ CAPE PINE workers Share Scheme to which government contributed Financially.
- DWAF workers were told and promised on numerous occasions that they will receive shares if they move to SAFCOL. SAFCOL workers were promised they will receive shares if they move to MTO. Most SAFCOL workers never received the shares they were promised if they move to SAFCOL from DWAF. Instead they were retrenched and bullied into early retirement.
- DWAF/SAFCOL SURPLUS FUNDS & PENSION REDRESS
- Something as simple as inviting the Financial Services Board to visit these communities will put the other ghosts of surplus funds and pension redress issues to rest. They didn't even consider handing out forms for the redress applications. Infact they refused to give old forestry workers access to their files. People had to force their way into MTO offices.
- We would also request a meeting between the minister and the ex SAFCOL workers to finally put this matter to rest.
- We sincerely hope government will find the ways and means to honor the verbal contract between the ex SAFCOL workers and Government.
- When a company tells you, they are level 4 on a government contract, after 20 years we must ask who monitored them in those meetings between themselves, FSC, DAFF and SAFCOL. Satisfying to whom? Their 80% foreign investor?
- Please ask SAFCOL how many people was transferred to them from DWAF.
- Please ask SAFCOL how many people did they transfer to MTO

# WCFSF RECOMMENDATIONS

- Bear in mind during apartheid workers received free housing, electricity, water, sanitation, transport to schools for workers children in addition to their slave wages.
- Currently we have no security of tenure, wages lower compared to apartheid years, those who were forced out of the forestry villages must now pay for services with a relatively lower wage
- Those still living in forestry villages don't get work in their own communities, those who are lucky to get a job have no job security, learner transport became the responsibility of the department of education.
- And once the industry no longer need their skills they are forced to move out of the state-owned housing on state owned land.
- How can we as government tell the private sector they must stop evictions and do the same? So, who benefitted from these changes? Investors who never set foot in our communities?
- How long must we still wait for the ownership of these forests and the better life?
- The liaison structures were established after a letter written to DAFF and SAFCOL in 2012 by Ms Mngomezulu. This letter was written to question MTO's transformation agenda in Tsitsikamma. These liaison committees might have met with MTO but ask them or the communities when did they meet with the communities to provide feedback on many issues. The only thing we know for sure was that these liaison structures were promised they will oversee the 10% shares and the R200 million rand in royalties paid to SAFCOL. MTO's idea of liaison is to confuse, spy, sow divisions and to pay their most loyal supporters. Come and ask the communities when and where did MTO promote opportunities for LED and community development. I don't even want to talk about some DAFF officials, one will think they work for MTO instead of monitoring them, they protect MTO instead of communities against MTO, they have failed us and don't deserve their salaries and after your visit they've shown us the middle finger.

# WCFSF RECOMMENDATIONS

- How did a foreign owned company secure a 70 year lease in an area which was promised to the local forestry community.
- Please come and tell Oom Jan Booyens children who now owns the shares he was waiting for. Who owns all these companies MTO now suddenly owns? How much South African Shareholding? Is this even legal that a lease can be transferred to other owners? Or sold? DO INFORM US.
- Please tell us how come government employees were victimized and the government owned SAFCOL turns a blind eye.
- MTO and SANParks rents out housing that belongs to DPE/SAFCOL/DPW but don't even add a lick of paint to those houses. Their contractors get first choice whilst our teachers must live in cramped RDP houses due to a lack of social housing all over the country and the high cost of rental. PLEASE ASK WHO DOES THIS HOUSES BELONG TO AND WHO RECEIVE THE RENTAL. We went to visit a teacher at the Lottering houses, they had to fix the deck because MTO only collected rent and don't maintain these houses. Occupants must paint and maintain their own homes, At some point when we raised questions about this, the rental stopped, but was resumed with vigor, including for arrears.
- **There are many a skeleton still in the cupboard which needs to be addressed and laid to rest. We humbly request the DPE to assist us in awarding the ex-forestry workers what is rightfully theirs by assisting us to for a Community Forestry Association to manage the Vecon Areas that are currently being replanted on behalf of the Forestry Communities of the Western Cape.**

# Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum



We thank the Select Committee for the time afforded to us to present this submission

Ms Mary-Anne Mngomezulu  
Secretary General  
on behalf of:  
Western Cape Forestry Sector Forum